

# ALASKA

## PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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April 10, 2019

Senator Chris Birch  
Senate Resources Committee  
State Capitol Room 205  
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Mr. Al Barrette's appointment to the Board of Game

Dear Chairman Birch,

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) supports the appointment of Mr. Al Barrette to the Alaska Board of Game.

Mr. Barrette is a long serving member of the Fairbanks AC, he is knowledgeable on wildlife issues and he cares about the process. He is a lifelong hunter and fisherman and he is committed to ensuring that all Alaskans continue to have access to our fish and game resources that we all hold so dear.

Serving on the Board of Game requires a personal sacrifice of time and energy and we have no doubt that Mr. Barrette is willing to make that sacrifice. We believe he will be a positive addition to the Board.

The APHA respectfully asks that you support the appointment of Mr. Barrette to the Board of Game.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sam Rohrer  
President, APHA

**Trever M. Fulton**

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**From:** Art Bloom <artmbloom@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2019 8:20 AM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Governor's Appointees for the Board of Game

I am strongly opposed to the nomination of Al Barrette to the BOG. I have been a hunter for all of the 47 I have been in Alaska and support far chase principles and science based management; principles Nr. Barrette seems incapable of understanding or caring about.

**Trever M. Fulton**

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**From:** Bob Watson <bob.watson.shhd@statefarm.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 12:45 PM  
**To:** House Resources; Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Governor's Appointees for the Board of Game

To Whom it May Concern;

Based on my understanding of Mr. Barrette's values and his past behaviors regarding the well-being of animals and the environment of Alaska I am writing to urge you not to allow him to become a member of the BOG!

Sincerely,

Bob Watson

## Trever M. Fulton

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**From:** Bruce Baker <bhbaker@gci.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 1:24 AM  
**To:** Senate Resources; House Resources  
**Subject:** Governor's Appointees for the Board of Game

Dear Alaska Senate & House Resources Committee members –

As a 49-year Alaska resident who utilizes Alaska wildlife, **I strongly encourage you to vote against confirmation of Mr. Al Barrette to the Board of Game.** Here are some of the arguments against his reappointment to the BOG:

He owns a tannery, manufactures and sells wolf traps, profits from the killing of wolves, and has been a permitted gunner in the aerial hunting of wolves, yet he refused to recuse himself from voting on the Denali wolf habitat buffer zone in March 2010.

When asked his perspective about the state's biological management of predators, Mr. Barrette answered that all the current predator control programs are effective and that he likes them. That is not the sign of a man who is willing to objectively, and with an open mind, consider each and every predator control decision on its own merits.

Mr. Barrette supports only hunters' perspectives to the exclusion of other perspectives, such as those of non-consumptive users, he favors non-resident hunters' rights over those of resident and subsistence users, he has radical or extreme positions, he invokes biblical passages to defend his positions, he does not support fair chase hunting standards, and he seems to disregard science when making decisions.

Mr. Barrette voted against trapping in residential areas of Healy, despite strong local support from Healy residents and community concerns about pets being inadvertently trapped and killed near homes.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Bruce H. Baker*

10738 Horizon Drive  
Juneau, AK 99801

**Trever M. Fulton**

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**From:** Denise Abel <denisea@bestfriends.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 2:06 PM  
**To:** House Resources; Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Alaska Board of Game

Hello,

I am writing to voice my opposition to Mr. Al Barrette as a member of the BOG. His stance on game management is dangerous to the long term populations of Alaska wild life. His perspectives will likely influence the BOG to make even more extreme wildlife management decisions which I oppose.

Thank you.

Denise Abel  
1642 South River Road  
Eagle River, AK 99577

## Trever M. Fulton

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**From:** E Bontempi <elainebont@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2019 4:34 PM  
**To:** House Resources; Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Governor's Appointees for the Board of Game

To Whom it May Concern;

I am writing to urge you NOT to allow Mr. Barrette to hold the BOG position, as his past behaviors and values are inconsistent with the well being of the animals and environment of Alaska. Not only does he have a history of manufacturing and selling wolf traps, participating in the aerial hunting of wolves, but has also made it very clear that he plans on removing wildlife buffers around Denali National Park and allowing bear baiting and the taking of wolf pups from their dens. His treatment of animals is very unethical and it puts the entire state of Alaska in a very bad light in the eyes of other states. Alaska has long been appreciated for its natural beauty and people come from all over the world to view wildlife, fish, hike, photograph, and enjoy one of the last places on earth that still has relatively untouched natural beauty. Each year the state receives billions of dollars each through the tourism industry, as people want to experience time in nature. It is truly the last frontier and is a gem among all other states. To allow a person such as Mr. Barrette, who openly demonstrates a complete disregard for animal life to hold a place as BOG is not only placing endangered and protected animals at risk, but is also taking away money from the state because if animals are no longer present to view.

The United States has worked very hard at reviving the wolf population, and southeast Alaska is home to an endangered species of wolf, the Archipelago Wolf. This species is very well known and loved by the public, including children, made famous through the true story of Romeo the wolf who lived in Juneau before a careless hunter shot and killed Romeo, a collared wolf.

I am urging you to consider the well being of the animals in the state of Alaska, as well as the money that will be lost through tourism and animal observation and studies if Mr. Barrette is allowed to become a BOG member. I am urging you to not allow Mr. Barrette to be confirmed as a BOG member.

Sincerely  
Dr Elaine Bontempi

Elaine Bontempi, Ph.D.

## Trever M. Fulton

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**From:** John Gaguine <jgaguine@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2019 8:33 PM  
**To:** House Resources; Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Al Barrette nomination to Game Board

I oppose this nomination. The legislature found him unsuitable in 2010. For the same reasons it should find him unsuitable now

John Gaguine  
Juneau

**Trever M. Fulton**

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**From:** Karen Walker <travelingkaren@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 1:41 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Cc:** Karen Walker  
**Subject:** Governor's Appointees for the Board of Game

To: Senate Resources Committee:

I am very concerned about the Governor's recommended appointees for the Board of Game. The BOG should represent all Alaskans' interests in wildlife. His appointees are pro hunting and trapping. The BOG should also represent non-consumptive "users" of wildlife like biologists, wildlife photographers, or tour guides. I have been a tour guide in Alaska for over 30 years, and I do not believe the BOG represents my interests in wildlife. A more balanced BOG is necessary to properly manage our wildlife for all Alaskans.

I am especially concerned with the appointment of Jerry Burnett. He has shown his favoritism toward trappers, owns a tannery and has gunned down wolves in the past. He is also against the Denali Buffer Zone which I feel is very important for protecting Denali's wolf population. These wolves are the one place in Alaska where Alaskans and visitors have the highest potential to see wolves in the wild. Killing these wolves takes away a dream for thousands of people each year.

Please select members of the BOG that represent all Alaskans, not just hunters and trappers.

Sincerely,

Karen Walker  
1640 Eastridge Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99501



## Trever M. Fulton

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**From:** Margaret McGinnis <margaretmcginnis@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 5:16 AM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Alaska Board of Game - Governor's Appointees

I am writing re the consideration of Mr. Al Barrette to serve on the Board of Game. In 2010, when he last served on the BOG, there were several concerns noted below; therefore, I feel he should not be appointed again. Thank you.

- In addition to owning and operating the Fairbanks Fur Tannery, Mr. Barrette manufactures and sells wolf traps, and has been a permitted gunner as part of the aerial hunting of wolves predator control program. In a [2010 ADN article](#) associated with his 2010 appointment to the BOG, he was quoted as saying “I will definitely be a representative for the trappers”. During the March 2010 BOG meeting, he voted against restricting trapping in residential areas in Healy, despite strong local support from Healy residents and community concerns about pets being inadvertently trapped and killed near homes.
- During the March 2010 BOG meeting, not only did Mr. Barrette oppose the Denali Buffer Zone, but he also supported the moratorium preventing the consideration of a reimplementations of a buffer zone for at least six years.
- From 2000 to 2010, the Alaska Board of Game approved the closure of certain areas outside of but adjacent to the eastern region of Denali National Park (the buffer zone) to wolf hunting and trapping year-round in order to protect wolf viewing opportunities in the park. In 2010, the Board of Game eliminated the buffer zone and voted to prevent reconsideration of a buffer zone for at least six years. In 2017, the National Park Service submitted a proposal to the Board of Game to reinstate a buffer zone, but the Board of Game denied the request. There is no habitat buffer zone in place today. [Learn more about the Denali Buffer Zone and its benefits.](#)
- After voting to repeal the Denali Buffer Zone, Mr. Barrette suggested the BOG authorize using a snow machine to harvest wolves in the “old” buffer zone. No other members supported the ideas and the BOG Chairman, Cliff Judkins, was quoted as saying “I just cringe at the thought of a snow machine running down the park boundary chasing wolves – it’s almost beyond me.” When questioned about this during his confirmation hearing, he replied it was just table talk, not an amendment or anything else, and that after listening to public input and advisory committee input, his opinion about chasing wolves in snow machines is neutral.

- During the [Senate Resources Committee Hearing on April 7, 2010](#) (start at page 13 for the transcript regarding Mr. Barrette's hearing; public testimonials start at page 22), several other concerns were brought forth about Mr. Barrette's voting record and wildlife management perspectives.
- Concerns were expressed that there was a conflict of interest in Mr. Barrette voting on the Denali buffer zone issue, and that he should have recused himself from voting given his personal business had the potential to profit from removal of the zone since it would lead to increased wolf trapping opportunities.
- When asked his perspective about the state's biological management of predators, Mr. Barrette answered that all the current predator control programs are effective and he likes them.
- When asked if he voted to authorize the baiting of brown bears, Mr. Barrette replied he "made one of those newbie errors, and yes, I did put that on the table". He also amended a proposal to allow baiting bears in Interior Alaska when residents, tourists and families are actively fishing, hiking, and camping in the month of July; "it was substantially voted down" by other BOG members.
- When questioned about why he advocated for commercial guides (and potentially non-residents) to be allowed 10 bait stations, when Alaskan residents are only allocated 2 stations, and if prior to voting there was discussion about that violating the Alaska constitution's equal access clause, Mr. Barrette said he thought the majority of the board was in favor of allowing guides to have more bear baits because it would be safer and more efficient in the field, and that while he did vote in favor of more bear baits he did not know if it violated Alaska's constitution as he did not seek professional review of the constitution.
- Mr. Barrette confirmed that he voted to allocate to nonresident use or to suppress resident use seasons on several occasions.
- During an interview with Backpacker Magazine, [Mr. Barrette was videoed skinning a wolf and saying](#) *"It specifically puts out in the first book of the Bible, in Genesis, that we should subdue nature and control it. We should be the managers of the animals and through the sin of Adam and Eve is what brought it on and in fact the first clothes that were made for Adam and Eve were skins of animals by God"*. When asked to clarify what he meant by this statement during his confirmation hearing, Mr. Barrette denied there is any kind of biblical foundation to his view of wildlife management. Instead he said what he meant to say was that he believes game

should be managed and that should be done through professional data, input from the public and elected advisory committees. He further commented that the opposite of managing is just to "let Mother Nature take care of itself" and that you can't manage for sustainability by letting Mother Nature do it.

- Several of the members of the public [who testified opposing Mr. Barrette at the 2010 hearing](#) expressed concerns about his claims that he listens to members of the public and Advisory Councils, but then votes or lobbies for contrary positions; only supports hunters' perspectives and does not consider other perspectives, such as those of non-consumptive users; regularly favors non-resident hunters' rights over resident and subsistence hunters' rights; has radical or extreme perspectives, even for the BOG; doesn't support fair chase hunting standards; or seems to disregard science when making decisions.
- One public commenter identified the issue of appointing Mr. Barrette as one of perpetuating unequal representation on the BOG:

*"It's the general underlying philosophy that is already well represented there [on the BOG] that he [Mr. Barrette] brings. He [the individual testifying] asked them [the legislature] to consider what it would be like if the board had representatives from the Sierra Club, Green Peace, Friends of Animals, Defenders of Wildlife, and Earth First, and then the governor has an open seat and appoints someone from PITA. That is precisely what has happened here, although on the other political arm in the spectrum. People on the environmental side would feel ashamed if a governor were to do that and he is stunned that the consumptive use side does not feel "utterly ashamed" at the notion that you cannot have a balanced Board of Game." -Rick Steiner's public testimony as presented on page 32 of the April 7, 2010 Senate Resource Committee report*

**Trever M. Fulton**

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**From:** jhuesemann@olypen.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 12:46 PM  
**To:** Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Regarding consideration of Al Barrette for appointment to BOG

**Importance:** High

**Please enter the following comments as Public Testimony for the Consideration of Governor Dunleavy's Appointees to the Board of Game -- the case of Al Barrette**

Mr. Barrette is **totally unfit** to serve on the Board of Game.

Mr. Barrette has used all of his formerly held “public service” positions to enhance his own personal financial interests. Note that, in addition to owning and operating the Fairbanks Fur Tannery, Mr. Barrette manufactures and sells wolf traps. He has consistently favored policies to increase his sales. He had and has serious and ongoing conflicts of interest.

There was a major conflict of interest with Mr. Barrette's voting on the Denali buffer zone issue (he voted to remove it), and rather should have recused himself from voting given his personal business had the potential to profit from removal of the zone since it would lead to increased wolf trapping opportunities.

He voted to authorize the baiting of brown bears. but it was voted down by other BOG members. This indicates another conflict of interest and self-serving rather than ethical or public oriented behavior.

Mr. Barrette also voted to allocate to nonresident use and to suppress resident use seasons on several occasions – additional instances of self-serving conflict of interest.

He primarily supports non-resident hunters' perspectives and does not consider other perspectives, such as those of non-consumptive users. He has demonstrated that he regularly favors non-resident hunters' rights over resident and subsistence hunters' rights and has radical and extreme perspectives as well as radical religious extremist excuses for animal abuse, extreme even for the BOG; He does not support fair chase hunting standards and disregards science when making decisions. He has been filmed and recorded making extremist statements.

Alaska can do way better than this. Mr. Barrette does **NOT** belong on the Board of Game.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael H. Huesemann

Dr. J. A. Huesemann

[jhuesemann@olypen.com](mailto:jhuesemann@olypen.com)

## Trever M. Fulton

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**From:** Susan and Pete Vogt <bias@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 3:31 AM  
**To:** House Resources; Senate Resources  
**Subject:** Mr. Barrette Board of Game Governor Appointee

I strongly object to Mr. Barrette to the BOG!!! This man makes extremists look fair and balanced! His views and ACTIONS for intensive predator control at all costs are contrary to the majority of Alaskans! Visitors come to Alaska to see wolves alive not dead!

He claims he listens to members of the public and Advisory Councils, but then votes or lobbies for contrary positions; only supports hunters' perspectives and does not consider other perspectives, such as those of non-consumptive users; regularly favors non-resident hunters' rights over resident and subsistence hunters' rights; has radical or extreme perspectives, even for the BOG; doesn't support fair chase hunting standards; or seems to disregard science when making decisions. He owns the Fairbanks Fur Tannery for heaven's sake. How can anything this man has done in his life considered to be an objective member of the BOG.

He was rejected in 2010 and needs to be rejected now. NO, NO, NO.

Susan and Pete Vogt  
269 Bias Dr.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99712

**Sen. Chris Birch**

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**From:** Swift Fork Air, Inc. <swiftforkair@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2019 9:00 PM  
**To:** Sen. Click Bishop; Rep. Adam Wool; Sen. Scott Kawasaki; Rep. John Lincoln; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Grier Hopkins; Rep. Sara Hannan; Rep. Ivy Spohnholz; Rep. Chris Tuck; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. George Rauscher; Rep. Sara Rasmussen; Sen. Chris Birch; Sen. John Coghill; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Lora Reinbold; Sen. Jesse Kiehl  
**Subject:** SUPPORT CONFIRMATION of AL BARRETTE  
**Attachments:** Public Testimony Support Confirmation Al Barrette.jpg

**Public Testimony: Board of Game**  
**SUPPORT Confirmation of Al Barrette to the Board of Game**

April 10, 2019

Dear Alaska Legislature,

As lifelong Alaskans and the owners and operators of Swift Fork Air, Inc., a Part 135 Air Taxi Service and licensed Big Game Transporter, we support the confirmation of Al Barrette to the Board of Game. We are outdoor enthusiasts, and a large portion of our economic livelihood involves flying members of the hunting and other outdoor using public. Just like Al, the future of our lifestyle and business, as well as that of many others who rely on Alaska's natural resources, requires sound resource management that is only achievable with quality people in place to help make decisions that are often difficult.

We support Al as a member of the Board of Game because he has a keen and vested interest in wildlife management and law, and he is dedicated to continual learning about the subject. Al already spends a great deal of time working with wildlife professionals, law enforcement officers, advisory committees, and members of the public for the betterment of the State's wildlife management. Al has excellent interpersonal skills, is a good listener, genuinely enjoys interacting with all outdoor enthusiasts, and is always willing to take the time to help anyone who has a question or other issue he can assist with.

We also support Al because we believe that board members who are open-minded, treat all users and stakeholders with fairness in the decision making processes (within the bounds of Alaska's legal statutes), and have the courage to make tough decisions ultimately serve Alaska and its interests best. We believe Al has these qualities, and will make a great addition to the Alaska Board of Game.

Thank you,

Cristina Laird and Mark Keech

Owners, Swift Fork Air, Inc.  
PO Box 84634  
Fairbanks AK 99708

907-458-0734

[swiftforkair@gmail.com](mailto:swiftforkair@gmail.com)